

Rapide Croche Lock and Dam, Lockkeeper's Residence
Approximately 115 feet north of the lock
Wrightstown
Outagamie County
Wisconsin

HAER No. WI-91-A

HAER
WIS
5-WR10,
2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain System Support Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAPIDE CROCHE LOCK AND DAM, LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

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Location: The Rapide Croche lockkeeper's residence is located north of the lock SE1/4 of Section 4, T21N, R19E, Civil Town of Buchanan, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

UTM: 16/404600/4907450; USGS Quadrangle: Wrightstown, Wisconsin 7.5' series

Date of Construction: 1907

Engineer: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Architect: United States Army Corps of Engineers with Contractors

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The Lockkeeper's house served as an on-site residence for the lockkeeper responsible for controlling the locks. In addition, the house served as a residence for the lockkeeper's family. The residence functioned as part of the daily operation of the Rapide Croche Lock and Dam Complex.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in 1995 in accordance with requirements detailed in a June 19, 1994 letter from Gregory D. Kendrick, Chief, History Branch, NPS to Dale Monteith, Acting Chief, Planning Division, USACOE, Detroit District. The Lower Fox system remains basically operational but was placed in caretaker status by the USACOE in 1982. The USACOE plans to divest itself of the Lower Fox system as soon as is feasible; therefore, NPS requested this documentation. All documentation conforms to HAER standards.

Dr. John D. Richards, Principal Investigator; Georgia A. Lusk, Patricia B. Richards, and Robert J. Watson, Project Archivists with Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center, Inc.; Joseph Paskus, Project Photographer.

LOCKKEEPER'S RESIDENCE

The lockkeeper's residence at Rapide Croche is presently located approximately 115 feet due north of the centerline of the lock. Plans and specifications for the house were prepared in 1903, and construction began 1 June 1906. The house was completed 25 September 1907. During the construction of the new lock at Rapide Croche between the years 1931 and 1934, the original lockkeeper's house was moved from its foundation and placed on a newly designed concrete foundation at the present site, 635 feet west of the original location.¹ A plan dated 12 April 1938 illustrates both the old and new locations of the lockkeeper's residence.²

The house is a 1 1/2 story wood frame Colonial Revival saltbox sided with asbestos shingles. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The front entry is centered above wooden stairs. A full width porch is attached to the front of the house. There is a louvered attic vent below the gable apex and two hip-roofed dormers with molded cornices set in the long front slope of the roof. Prior to the relocation of the house, the roof was clad with Eastlake tin shingles.³ The cellar door foundation at the northeast corner of the house supports a gabled addition clad in aluminum siding. The addition is roofed with asphalt shingles. Two brick chimneys are located at opposite ends of the roof peak.⁴

Details of the house have been derived from blueprints and plans dated January 1899, 16 July 1902, 27 March 1906, 2 October 1924, and 12 April 1938. Additional information was abstracted from visual inspection of the structure, the Rapide Croche Lock and Dam Historic District nomination form, and recent photographs.⁵

The maximum exterior dimensions of the lockkeeper's house are 31 feet 6 inches front to rear and 31 feet side to side, and 29 feet from the foundation to the roof ridge. The house is anchored to a concrete foundation constructed of 10 inch thick concrete walls with a 6 inch thick floor. The frame is constructed with 2 inch by 4 inch wall studs and corner posts. Lower floor joists are 2 inches by 10 inches while upper floor joists are 2 inches by 8 inches. Floor joists rest on 2 inch by 8 inch stringers. Roof rafters are constructed 2 inches by 4 inches reinforced with 2 inch by 6 inch tie beams.

Prior to relocation, all windows were wooden framed with double-hung sashes. The second story windows were 24 inches by 30 inches and the windows of the first story were 24 inches by 32 inches. An attic vent window was located below the roof peak. The window measured 16 inches by 30 inches and was wood framed with 12 panes. This window no longer exists. Subsequent to relocation, the second story fenestration was altered. The windows appear to have been shortened and widened. In addition, the first floor windows appear to have been slightly modified. Currently all windows are obscured by protective plywood sheeting.

The basement consists of a smaller chamber, housing a cistern and a larger open room. The dimensions of the main room are 29 feet 6 inches by 29 feet 4 inches, with a 7 feet 10 inches high ceiling. The cistern is 9 feet by 7 feet 6 inches. In the northeast corner of the basement a concrete stairway exits through the east wall. The east wall stairway is enclosed and roofed. An interior stairway leading to the first floor is situated in the center of the southern half of the basement. Standard wooden framed basement windows (9 inch by 12 inch wooden framed) are present in the east and west walls.

A veranda supported by four concrete piers extends along the entire south side of the house. Ceiling height in the house and veranda is approximately 9 feet 5 inches. In the original plan the porch is depicted as an open air veranda. After relocation, the porch is shown enclosed and roofed. Windows are located on the south, west, and east sides. Window style cannot be determined since

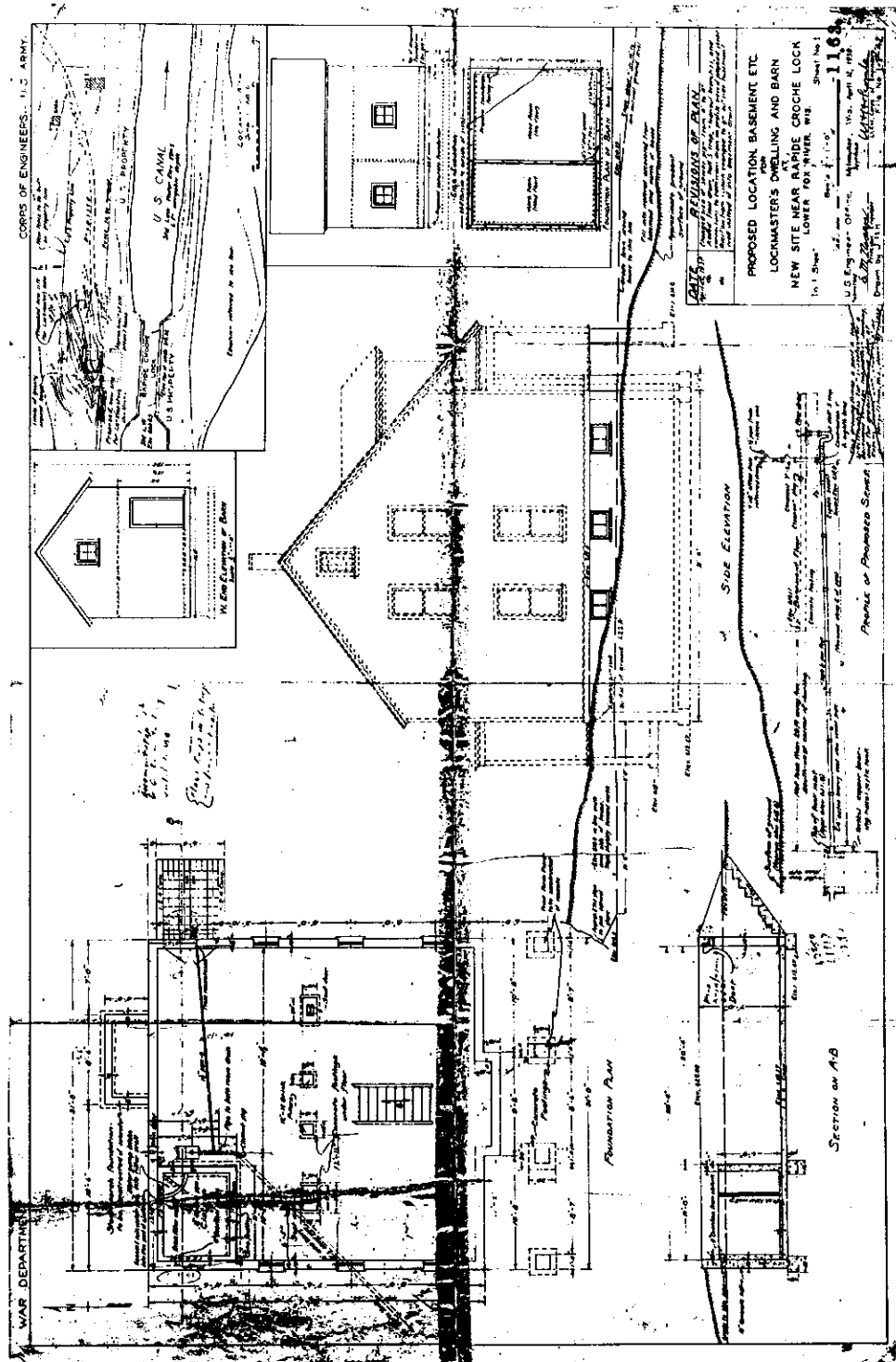
the entire porch has been enclosed by protective plywood sheeting. Centrally located wooden steps permit entrance to the house from the porch. The doorway from the porch provides entrance to a 5 foot 9 inch by 4 foot 4 inch roughly triangular vestibule with a maple floor. The west and east walls are angled inward so that the north wall of the vestibule is approximately 3 feet long. Doors are present in the west and east walls. The west wall door from the vestibule leads to an office measuring 13 feet by 15 feet. There are three windows in this room, one in the west wall and two in the south wall. A 4 foot 3 inch by 2 foot closet is situated in the northeast quadrant of the room. The door on the east wall leads to a 13 foot by 15 foot parlor with a maple floor. A closet which measures 4 feet 3 inches by 2 feet is situated in the northwest corner of the parlor. There are three windows in the parlor, one in the east wall and two in the south wall. A doorway in the west wall leads to the stairwell accessing the second floor. An additional doorway in the north wall leads to the living room/kitchen. The living room/kitchen is 16 feet 6 inches by 15 feet and is lit by two windows, one in the east and one in the north wall. A sink measuring 18 inches by 30 inches is situated in the northeast corner of the room. A door in the north wall exits to an enclosed storm porch. The porch measures 8 feet 4 inches by 3 feet 8 inches. Access to the basement is through a door in the south wall of the living room/kitchen. The west wall of the living room/kitchen contains two doorways. The northernmost door leads into a pantry which measures 4 feet 3 inches by 8 feet and has a window in the north wall. The other door leads to a space intended as an interior wood shed. This room is 8 feet 3 inches by 15 feet. Windows light the north and west walls. The original 1902 blueprints depict an exterior door and stoop attached to the north wall of the wood shed. After the relocation of the house to its present site, the door and stoop were removed.

The second floor consists of four bedrooms, five closets, and a central landing. The stairway leads into a roughly triangular vestibule. A 2 foot 6 inch square trap door accessing the attic is present in the vestibule ceiling. There is a door in the north wall which leads to a 7 foot by 2 foot 6 inch closet. Doors on the west and east walls lead to bedrooms. The two bedrooms in the northern half of the house are symmetrical. Each measures 11 feet by 15 feet with closets situated along the north/south axis. Doors flank either side of the stairway access door in the vestibule south wall. Each door leads to a 13 foot by 13 foot bedroom. Each bedroom has an associated closet located along the north/south axis. The closets measure 2 feet by 5 feet. There is a west and an east facing window in each of the northern bedrooms. There is a south facing hipped dormer attached to each of the southern bedrooms. Dormers measure 4 feet 2 inches by 4 feet 10 inches and contain a set of casement windows.

ENDNOTES

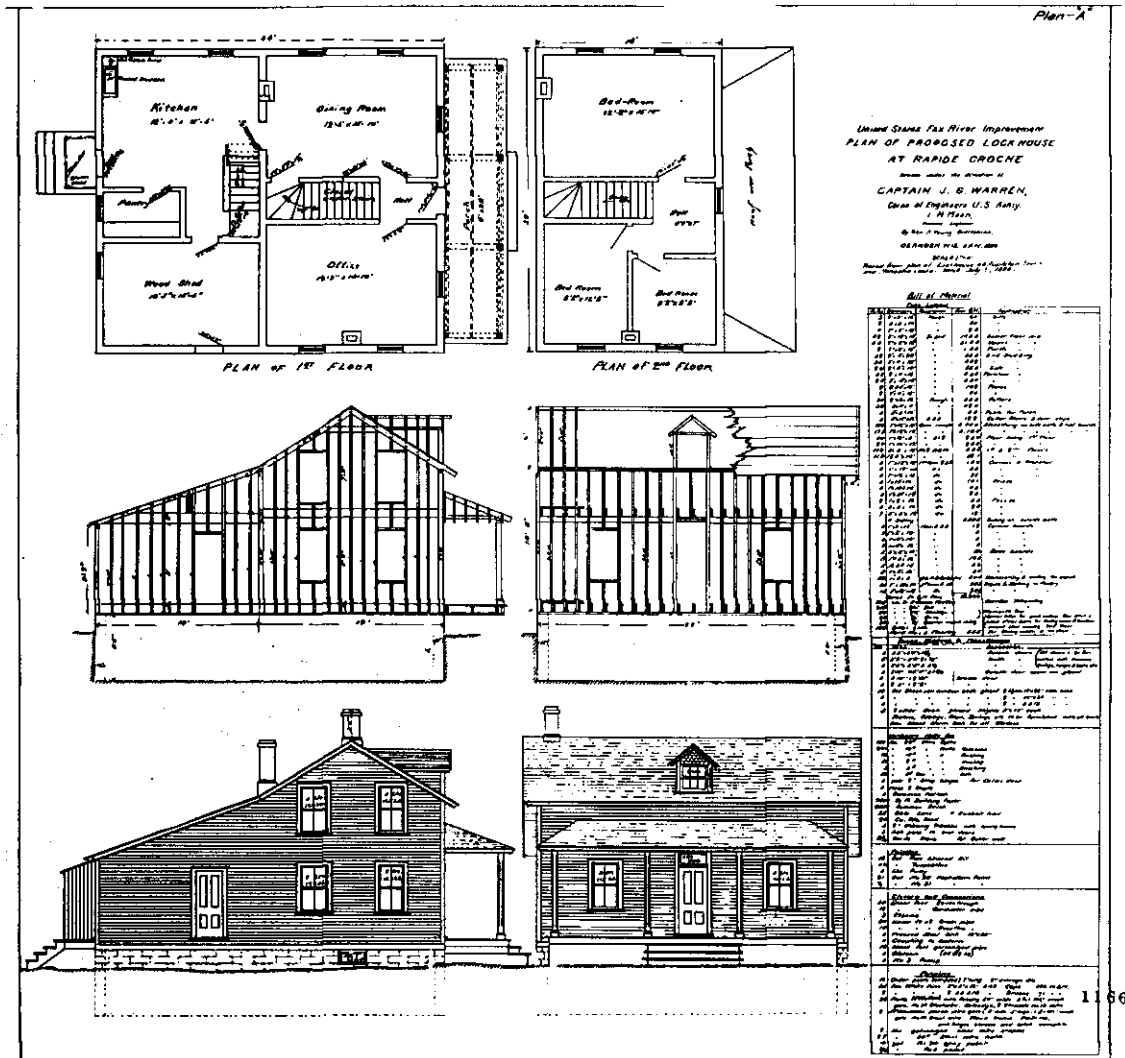
- 1 U.S. Army, Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, 1939, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- 2 USACOE, Lockmaster's Dwelling and Barn at New Site Near Rapide Croche Lock, 1938, File #1-P-42, sheet 1.
- 3 USACOE, Lock Tenders Dwelling for Rapide Croche Lock, 1902, File #1165.
- 4 John N. Vogel, *Rapide Croche Lock and Dam Historic District*, NPS Form 10-900 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1991.
- 5 USACOE, Plan "A" of proposed Lockhouse at Rapide Croche, 1899, File #1166, sheet 1; USACOE, Plan of proposed Lock Master's Dwelling to be Erected at Rapide Croche Lock, 1906, File #1164-3, sheet 4; USACOE, Round Oak Moistair Heating Plan, Rapide Croche Lock Residence, Second Floor Plan, 1932, File #1161 2; USACOE, File #1165; USACOE, File #1-P-42, sheet 1; John N. Vogel, *Rapide Croche Lock and Dam Historic District*.

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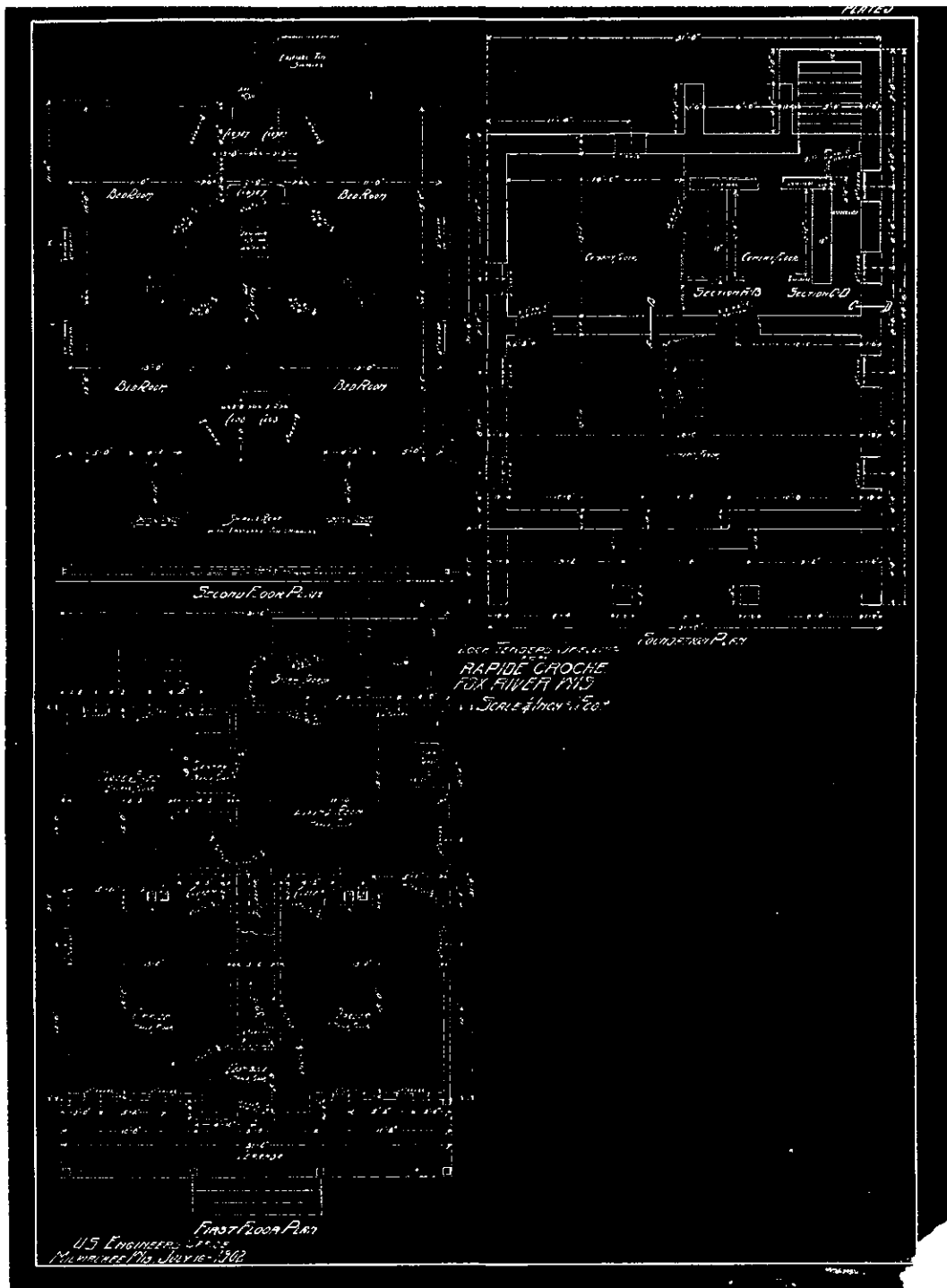
Photocopy of plans of proposed location, basement, etc. for Lockmaster's Dwelling and Barn at New Site Near Rapide Croche Lock, 1938, COE File #1163, File #1-P-42, sheet 1.

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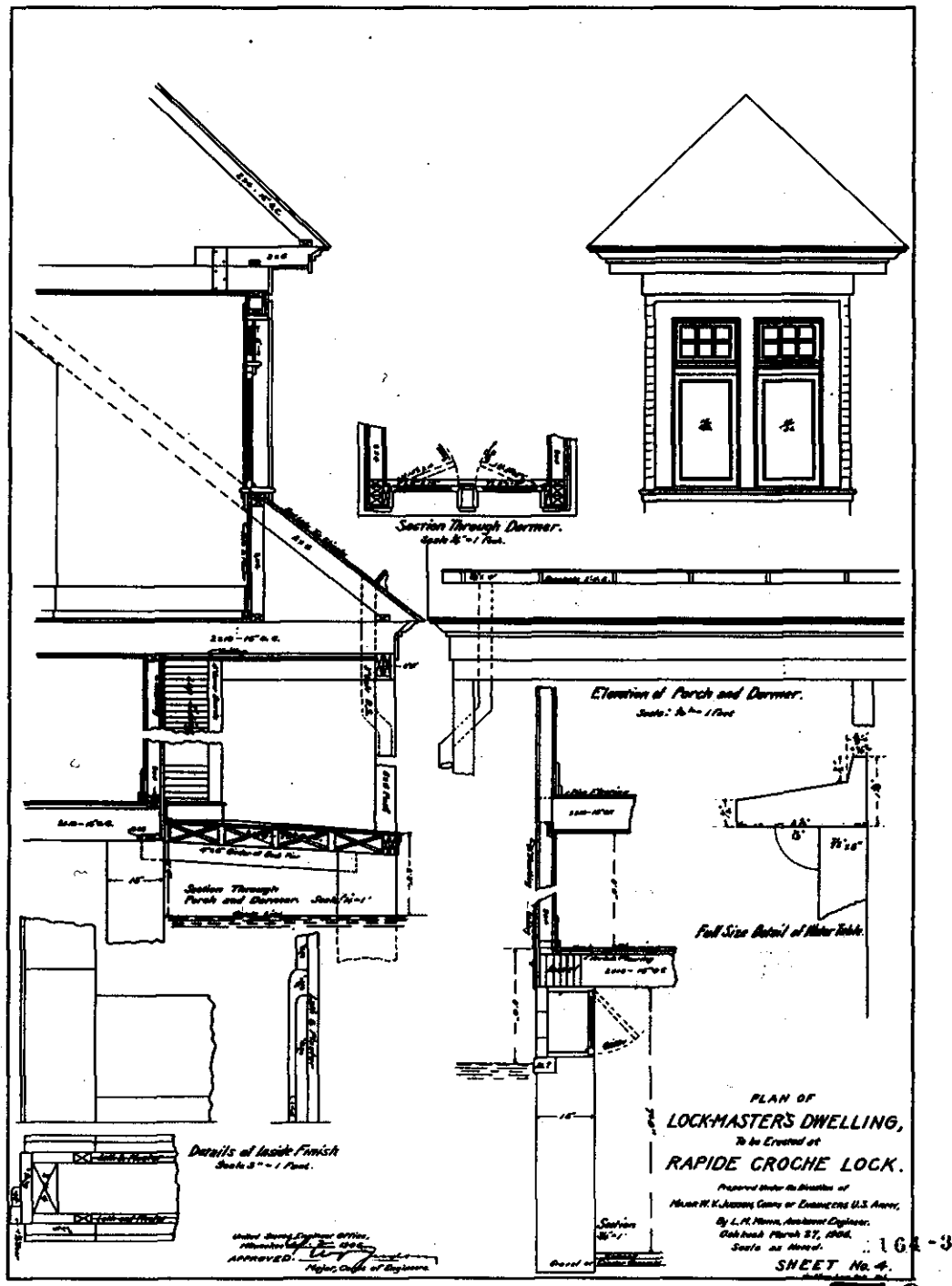
Photocopy of Plan "A" of proposed Lockhouse at Rapide Croche, 1899, File #1166, sheet 1.

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Photocopy of blueprint for Lock Tenders Dwelling for Rapide Croche Lock, 1902.

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Photocopy of Plan of proposed Lock Master's Dwelling to be Erected at Rapide Croche Lock, 1906, File #1164-3, sheet 4.